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**The first major Smiths book in two decades—one of the most beloved, respected, and storied indie rock bands in music history**

# A LIGHT THAT NEVER GOES OUT

# The Enduring Saga of the Smiths

# By Tony Fletcher



“Finally, the full story of the Smiths: four kids, a city, a sound, a dream, a scandal, a legend. Tony Fletcher reveals the emotionally intense, wildly comic, totally fascinating details of how this band changed the world. It belongs in any fan’s scholarly room.”

### —Rob Sheffield, bestselling author of [*Love Is a Mix Tape*](http://www.amazon.com/Love-Mix-Tape-Life-Loss/dp/1400083036/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1349983996&sr=1-1&keywords=love+is+a+mixtape)

 “An intriguing portrait of an intriguing band that is as rich in intellectual history as it is in rock trivia. Keith Richards, eat your heart out.”

**—Gary Marcus, bestselling author of *Guitar Zero: The New Musician and the Science of Learning***

“*A Light That Never Goes Out* is an exhilarating read! Tony Fletcher not only examines the Smiths’ impact on the music and culture in their UK homeland, but he explores their lasting effect on America and their undeniable influence on American indie rock. I highly recommend it.” **—Matt Pinfield, host of MTV2’s *120 Minutes* and *The Hivecast* on iTunes**

“Written with love and filled with gemlike moments—like Johnny Marr singing along with a 45 of the Marvelettes’ ‘You’re the One’ during his first meeting with Morrissey—Fletcher chronicles one of the 20th century’s most gorgeous and subversive bands. Fans will swoon; the inexplicable rest of you will learn what the fuss was about.”

**—Will Hermes, author of *Love Goes to Buildings on Fire***

“Fletcher perfectly captures the wit and complexity of the band and its music. . . . Best of all for the group’s ongoing admirers and fans, [he] displays an unflagging enthusiasm in describing every aspect of how the Smiths produced a ‘torrent of brilliant work in a blazing stream of exhaustive glory.’” **—*Publishers Weekly***

They were, their fans believe, the best band in the world. Hailing from Manchester, England, **the Smiths—Morrissey, Johnny Marr, Andy Rourke**, and **Mike Joyce**—were critical and popular favorites throughout the 1980s. Thanks to the enduring popularity of songs such as “How Soon Is Now?,” “Please, Please, Please Let Me Get What I Want,” and “There Is a Light That Never Goes Out,” they are considered one of the greatest British rock groups of all time—up there with the Beatles, the Stones, the Who, and the Clash.

In **A Light That Never Goes Out: The Enduring Saga of the Smiths (Crown Archetype; on-sale December 4, 2012),** bestselling author **Tony Fletcher** paints a vivid portrait of the fascinating personalities within this group. Fletcher was granted detailed interviews with dozens of key players, including Marr and Rourke,and was loaned or provided access to more letters, company memos, and contracts than any previous author or journalist writing about the Smiths. Fletcher introduces us to the band in a rich narrative: Morrissey, the witty, literate lead singer whose loner personality and complex lyrics made him an icon for teenagers who felt forlorn and forgotten; his songwriting partner Marr, the gregarious guitarist who became a rock god for a generation of indie kids; and the talented but underappreciated rhythm section of bassist Rourke and drummer Joyce.

Fletcher brings to light many revelations including:

* New details about Morrissey’s personal life drawn from previously unpublished letters
* The early days of the Smiths: from the first meeting to the group’s formation
* The studio machinations and methodologies, from interviews with the group’s producers to access to previously unreleased recordings
* The facts behind the Smiths’ well-publicized court battles
* The truth behind Andy Rourke’s firing in 1986
* The Smiths’ touring lifestyle
* The internal problems that tore the Smiths apart

Despite the band’s tragic breakup at the height of their success, **A Light That Never Goes Out** is a celebration: the saga of four working-class kids from a northern English city who come together despite contrasting personalities, find a musical bond, inspire a fanatical following, and leave a legacy that changed the music world—and the lives of their fans.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

TONY FLETCHER is the bestselling author of six books, including *Moon* and *Remarks Remade: The Story of R.E.M*. He has contributed to many publications and shows, including *Newsday,* *Spin, Behind the Music, Weekend Edition,* and many more. Born and raised in England, he lives with his family in New York’s Catskill Mountains.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

A LIGHT THAT NEVER GOES OUT: The Enduring Saga of the Smiths

By Tony Fletcher

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***For more information on* A LIGHT THAT NEVER GOES OUT *or to schedule your interview with Tony Fletcher, please contact Rachel Rokicki: 212-782-8455 or*** *rrokicki@randomhouse.com****.***